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SUBJECT GROUP 6200-6299 PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

SUBGROUP 6280 - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND POLLUTION CONTROL

6280.1 Regulated Waste Categories. All afloat commands are instructed to minimize regulated medical waste generation and implement effective segregation programs to ensure that only regulated medical waste, as defined by Commonwealth of Virginia, Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations and BUMEDINST 6280.1 series is treated as regulated medical waste. Failure to do so will result in excessive disposal costs. The following items are defined as regulated medical waste:

a. Solid waste. Any solid waste is a regulated medical waste if the health care professional suspects it to be capable of producing an infectious disease, if it has been or is likely to have been contaminated by an organism likely to be pathogenic to healthy humans and such organism is not routinely and freely available in the community.

b. Isolation waste. Medical waste from isolation rooms is often perceived as regulated medical waste. However, only those items that were contaminated, or likely to be contaminated, with infective material are infectious waste.

c. Cultures and Stocks of Infectious Agents and Associated Biologicals. These wastes include specimens from medical and pathology labs, cultures of infectious agents, disposable culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures, and discarded live and attenuated vaccines.

(1) Include Microbiology wastes such as etiologic agents containing microbes that, due to their species, type, virulence, or concentration, are known to cause disease in humans. Examples include discarded live vaccines and wastes from production of biologicals.

d. Human Blood and Blood Products. Wastes included are:

(1) Blood, serum, plasma, and blood products, including empty, used blood tubes and blood collecting and dispensing bags and associated tubing.

(2) Dressing materials, gauze or bandages (items contaminated with blood or other infectious materials which would release these substances in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; and items that are caked with dried blood or other infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling) are considered regulated waste.

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(a) Exam gloves and gauze pads used for compression after a phlebotomy which contain small amounts of blood or body fluids, but not containing free flowing liquid **are not** regulated medical waste if accumulated with other routine trash. If gauze pads and exam gloves are accumulated in a separate container, these wastes must be managed as regulated medical waste.

(b) Used sanitary products for menstrual flow are not considered regulated waste and can be discarded with routine trash.

(3) Under certain circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious materials.

e. Pathological Wastes. These wastes include human tissues, organs, body parts and blood removed during surgery, biopsy or autopsy.

f. Sharps. Included are needles, syringes, scalpel blades, Pasteur pipettes, specimen slides, and broken glass potentially contaminated with infectious material.

(1) Auto-injectors (2-Pam chloride, atropine) will be disposed of under the sharps requirements. Do not expend the auto injector as a means of disposal. Call the Medical Logistics Command, Fort Dietrick, MD to find out if these items are extendible.

g. Surgical Wastes. Included are soiled dressings, sponges, drapes, lavage tubes, drainage sets, underpads, and surgical gloves.

h. Unused. Unused expired medical materials that are designed for use in diagnosis, treatment, laboratory testing or training, are managed as regulated medical waste.

i. Spilled material. Any residue, of blood and blood products that contaminate soil, water, or other debris resulting from the clean up of a spill, are considered regulated medical waste.

If the regulated status of the waste is unclear, contact PWC Norfolk Regional Environmental Group for assistance.

#### 6280.2 Regulated Medical Waste Management

a. Regulated Medical Waste Drop-off Points. Drop off points for the disposal of regulated medical waste generated by shipboard medical departments have been established at NAVSTA Norfolk, BRMEDCLINIC NAVSTA Norfolk (Sewells Point) and NAVPHIBASE Little Creek Branch Medical Clinic. For disposal of regulated medical waste at NAVSHIPYD Norfolk see NAVSHIPYDINST 5400.1 series. Information concerning hours

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of operation may be obtained from the Clinic Regulated Medical Waste Coordinator at each location.

b. Packaging Requirements. Regulated medical waste shall be placed into two leak proof (double bagged) red biohazard bags (NSN 6530-01-107-5798), 36in X 24in, package of 200 or 6530-01-107-5799, 26in X 18in, package of 200).

(1) Sharps shall be collected at the point of generation in closable, puncture-resistant, leakproof on the sides and bottom, color-coded red containers, and those containers placed inside a plastic bag prior to transport.

c. Transport of Regulated Medical Waste

(1) Use only government vehicles to transport regulated medical waste from ships to clinics for disposal. **Do not use privately owned vehicles.**

(2) Do not transport regulated medical waste on public highways. Regulated medical waste generated in private shipyards or in areas where on-base transport to a clinic is not possible, must be accomplished by a permitted transporter. Contractor transportation service can be obtained through PWC Norfolk, Contracting Office. Call the Contracting Office to arrange a pickup. Then send a memorandum to PWC Norfolk using the format below.

(a) Format to request regulated medical waste pickup from private shipyards

MEMORANDUM

From: Medical Department, USS NEVERSAIL (DD 999)

To: Contracting Officer, Navy Public Works Center, Norfolk (Code 0254)

Subj: PICKUP/DISPOSAL OF REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE FROM USS NEVERSAIL

Ref: (a) NAVMEDCOMINST 6280.1

(b) PHONCON PWC Norfolk Roy Criger/USS NEVERSAIL HMC Jones of (date)

1. In accordance with reference (a), request pickup of regulated medical waste.

2. In accordance with reference (b), the following information is provided:

a. Number of containers:

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b. Location: USS NEVERSAIL (DD 999), Pier #2 Metro Machine Corporation, Norfolk, VA

c. POC: HMC Jones, (757) 444-5555

d. Requested date of pickup:

(Signature)

(b) The above service is provided at no cost to Atlantic Fleet ships.

**Note:** For ships homeported in other than Hampton Roads and who are in the Norfolk area for yard work, a funding document for disposal of regulated medical waste must be established with PWC Norfolk Comptroller.

d. Steam Sterilization Units. Do not operate shipboard steam sterilization units (autoclaves) in port for treating regulated medical waste. Autoclaves may only be operated in port to sterilize instruments, per Virginia Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations.

#### 6280.3 Shipboard Infectious Waste Management Program

a. As prescribed by Virginia Infectious Waste Management Regulations and BUMEDINST 6280.1 series, each ship must designate an infectious waste coordinator. Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, 29 CFR 1910.1030, requires each ship to maintain records of regulated medical waste training conducted for regulated medical waste management personnel.

b. Ensure that entries are made in the ship's Medical Department Journal of all regulated medical waste transported shoreside to clinics for disposal.

#### 6280.4 Medical Substance Categories

##### a. Controlled and Non-Controlled Medical Substance Definitions

(1) Controlled substances are those drugs scheduled in the Controlled Substance Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-513) and ethyl alcohol. There are five schedules:

(a) Schedule I. No acceptable drug use, but maximum abuse potential.

(b) Schedule II. Acceptable drug use and a very high abuse potential.

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(c) Schedules III, IV, and V. Acceptable drug use which are considered to have lesser degrees of abuse potential and other scheduled drugs.

(d) The Manual of the Medical Department (NAVMED P-117, Chapter 21) closely regulates the disposal of these items. Under no circumstances will these items be discarded with non-controlled items turned in to clinics or landfills.

(2) Non-Controlled substances are medicines that do not meet one of the five schedules above. Over the counter (OTC) medicines are non-controlled.

(a) Some examples of OTC medication are aspirin, Kaopectate, some cough syrups, and antacids.

(b) Some examples of prescription medication are antibiotics, muscle relaxants, and anti-emetics.

b. Management and disposal of non-controlled substances

(1) Disposal of non-regulated medical wastes presents no hazard to the environment or to public health. However, bulk disposal of these items can cause public concern or create unnecessarily high disposal costs when discarded as regulated medical waste. Medication in bulk will not be discarded with routine trash due to public concerns and landfill requirements.

(2) Minimize the need to dispose of non-controlled medications by implementing an effective supply management/stock rotation program prior to product expiration. Ships should contact the local Branch Medical Clinic pharmacy for information concerning hours of operation, packaging and shelf life requirements. Material in Class A condition and greater than one year shelf life remaining may be returned to FISC Norfolk.

(3) Small quantities of expired non-controlled tablets, capsules or dry medicinal products may be disposed of via the sanitary sewer. **Do not put Metamucil into the drains. It clogs them.** Dispose of by opening containers and place into routine trash. Contact PWC Norfolk Regional Environmental Group for further information.

(4) Small quantities of non-controlled liquid medicinals contained in bottles or plastic bags may be emptied into the sanitary sewer system. No hazardous material with a pH of less than 5 or flashpoint below 140 degrees Fahrenheit may be discarded via the sanitary sewer system. Disposal of medicinals with a pH less than 5 and a flashpoint of less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit as a hazardous waste. Dispose of the empty container into routine trash.

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(a) Unused hazardous material such as chemicals and media shall be treated as hazardous waste (HW) through the ship's HW coordinator.

(5) IV bottles/bags must be emptied into sanitary sewer, (having removed the IV tubing) and disposed of the empty bottle/bag into routine trash. If the IV set contains a needle, dispose of the needle in sharps container. If the IV tubing contains blood, then the tubing is a regulated medical waste (see section 6280.1 d (1)).

(6) For small amounts of ointments, paste and creams, (6-9 tubes) cut the tubes to preclude subsequent use, and discard into routine trash dumpster. Empty the contents of large jars of ointments into a routine trash container to preclude subsequent use, and place jar in routine trash.

(7) Bulk non-regulated medical material such as Special Accounting Class (SAC) 224 or 207 in Class A condition and greater than one year shelf life remaining may be returned to FISC Norfolk.

(a) Expired bulk quantities or SAC 224 or 207 items of non-controlled expired shelf life pharmaceutical products may be disposed of by calling PWC Norfolk Ships Support Office at NAVSTA Norfolk Port Operations. PWC Norfolk will bring a dumpster or a truck to the pier for the disposal of the non-controlled items. The dumpster will be picked up, and taken to the landfill on the same day waste is deposited.

**1. Associated liquids will not be placed into a landfill.** Small vials that contain liquid shall be placed into a bag, the vials broken and the liquid drained into the sanitary sewer system. Deposit the crushed glass into routine trash. IV containers shall also be drained into the sanitary sewer system, and the containers deposited into routine trash.

(b) The ship will provide an escort from the Medical Department or Supply Department who will make sure the load is not tampered with en route to the landfill.

(c) The ship must provide the following certification on letterhead paper signed by a Medical Officer or the Commanding Officer's designated representative. This certification must accompany the waste pick-up. The escort will turn this certification over to the landfill manager at the delivery location.

**1. Format for bulk quantity disposal certification:**

From: USS NEVERSAIL  
To: Hampton Landfill Manager, Sanifill Corporation

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Subj: EXPIRED MEDICAL ITEMS

1. This waste contains expired medical supplies. It contains no regulated medical waste, hazardous materials or other prohibited or controlled items.

(Signature)

6280.4 Emergency Clean up for Spills/Abandoned Regulated Medical Waste

a. Procedures to activate contractual support for emergency clean up of abandoned, spilled or improperly disposed regulated medical waste.

(1) For assistance with abandoned or illegally disposed regulated medical waste during normal working hours (Monday-Friday 0700-1630) contact PWC Norfolk Regional Environmental Group for guidance.

(2) If responsible command has been identified and the waste has not been removed from the installation, the responsible command will transport it to the local Branch Medical Clinic. After hours, the responsible command shall store at command and turn in the next day.

(3) If above procedures cannot be accomplished or disposal is required after hours, activation of emergency contract is warranted. To activate the emergency regulated medical waste cleanup and disposal contract call:

(a) Daily working hours

1. Regional Environmental Group (for guidance)  
Time: 0700-1630
2. PWC Norfolk  
Time: M-F 0715-1545

(b) After hours

1. PWC Norfolk, P1 Duty Desk  
Time: M-F 1545-0715, Sat-Sun & Holidays (24

hours)

6280.5 Super-chlorination of Potable Water Tanks. For guidance regarding disposal of super-chlorinated water call Regional Environmental Group.

COMNAVREGMIDLANT/SOPA (ADMIN) HRINST 5400.1

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6280.6 Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit No. 2.  
Arrangements for the service offered by this unit should be made with the Officer in Charge by letter, message, telephone, or by personal call at the unit located in Building X-336 on the corner of Virginia Avenue and Powhatan Street at NAVSTA Norfolk. The mission and general function of the unit is set forth in NAVMEDCOMINST 5450.28 series.